



Symbolic expressions of violence between Celts and Germans

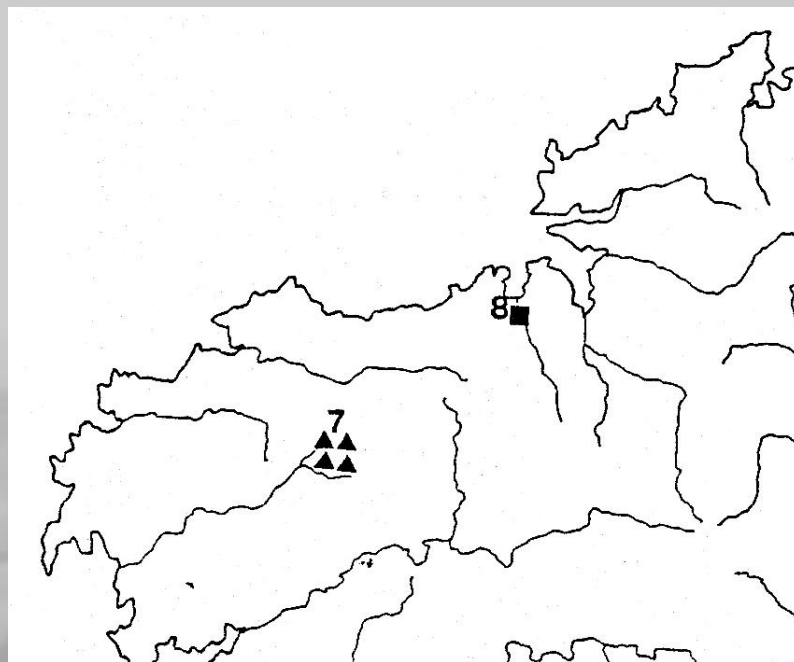


Marcial Tenreiro Bermúdez

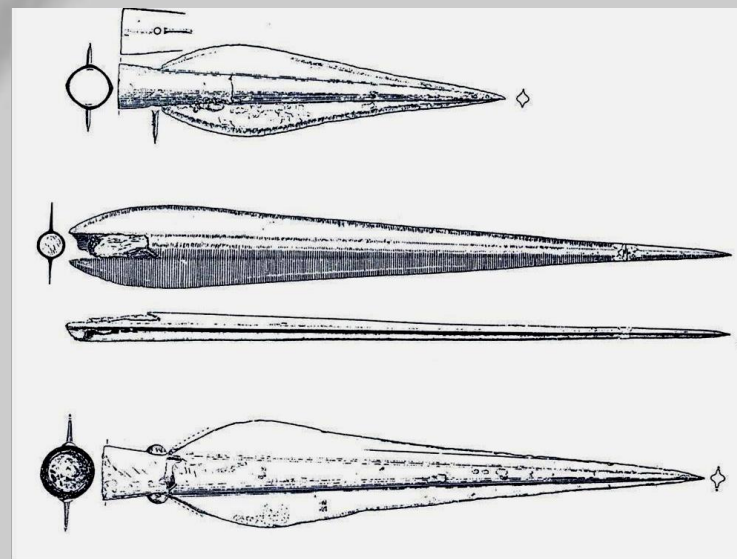
R.G. Ancient History, Archaeology
and Territorial Analysis







- Location of the river Ulla 's sword in the border of the Arousa's delta
- Abelenda Hoard (Coristanco)



■ **1)- Funerary Explanation:**

- 1.1)- Weapons as part of the possessions of the dead
- 1.1)- Weapons bold into the waters as a means of destruction (after the funeral)

■ **2)- Votive-religious Explanation:**

- 2.1)- Offering in aquatic sanctuary (as prestigious wells)
- 2.2)-Offering of travel in difficult or dangerous step of that (to protective deities)
- 2.2)-Thanksgiving Offering after a battle (captured booty)
- 2.3)- Offering after duel or single combat (to ordalic divinity)

■ **3)- Law Ritual Explanation**

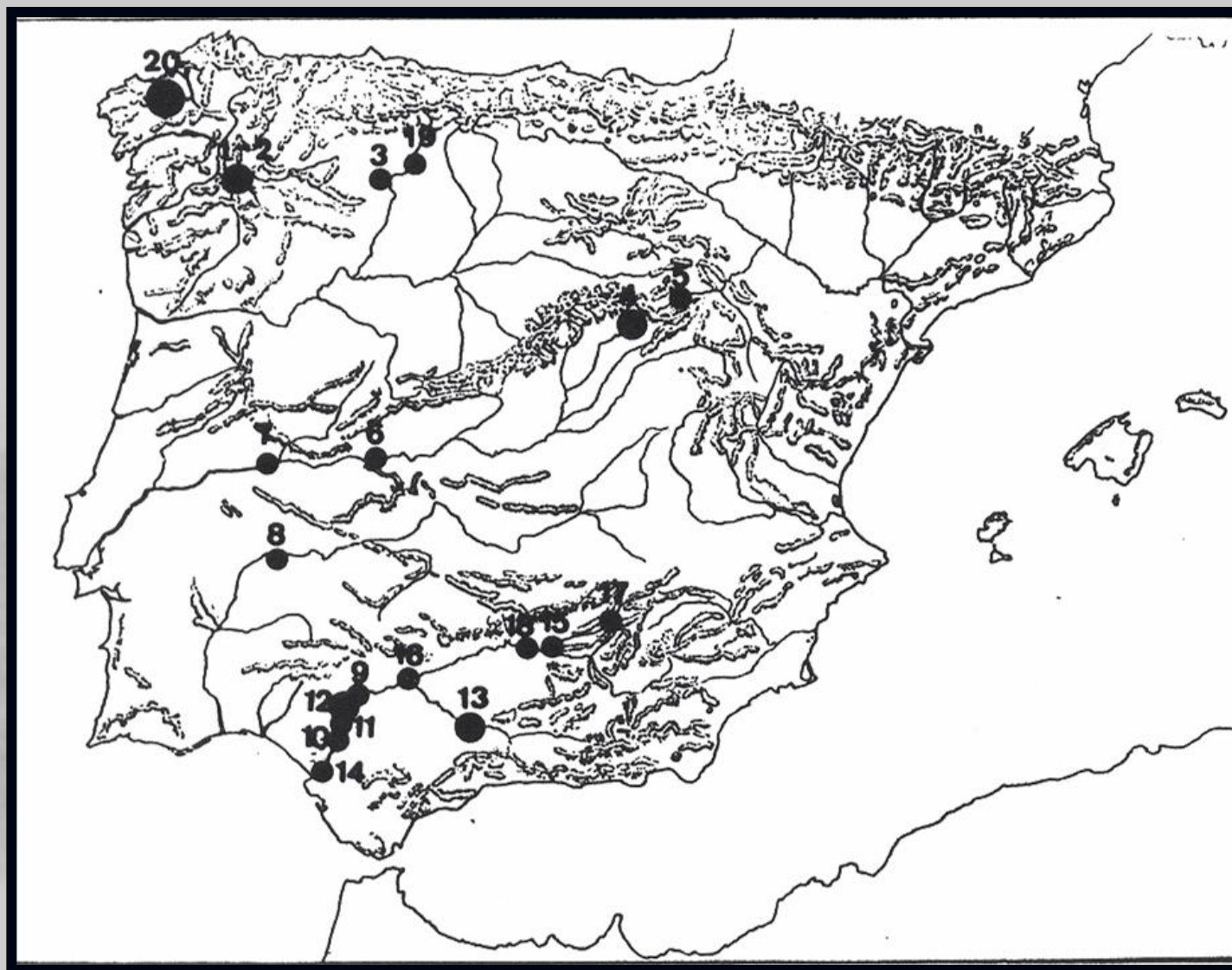
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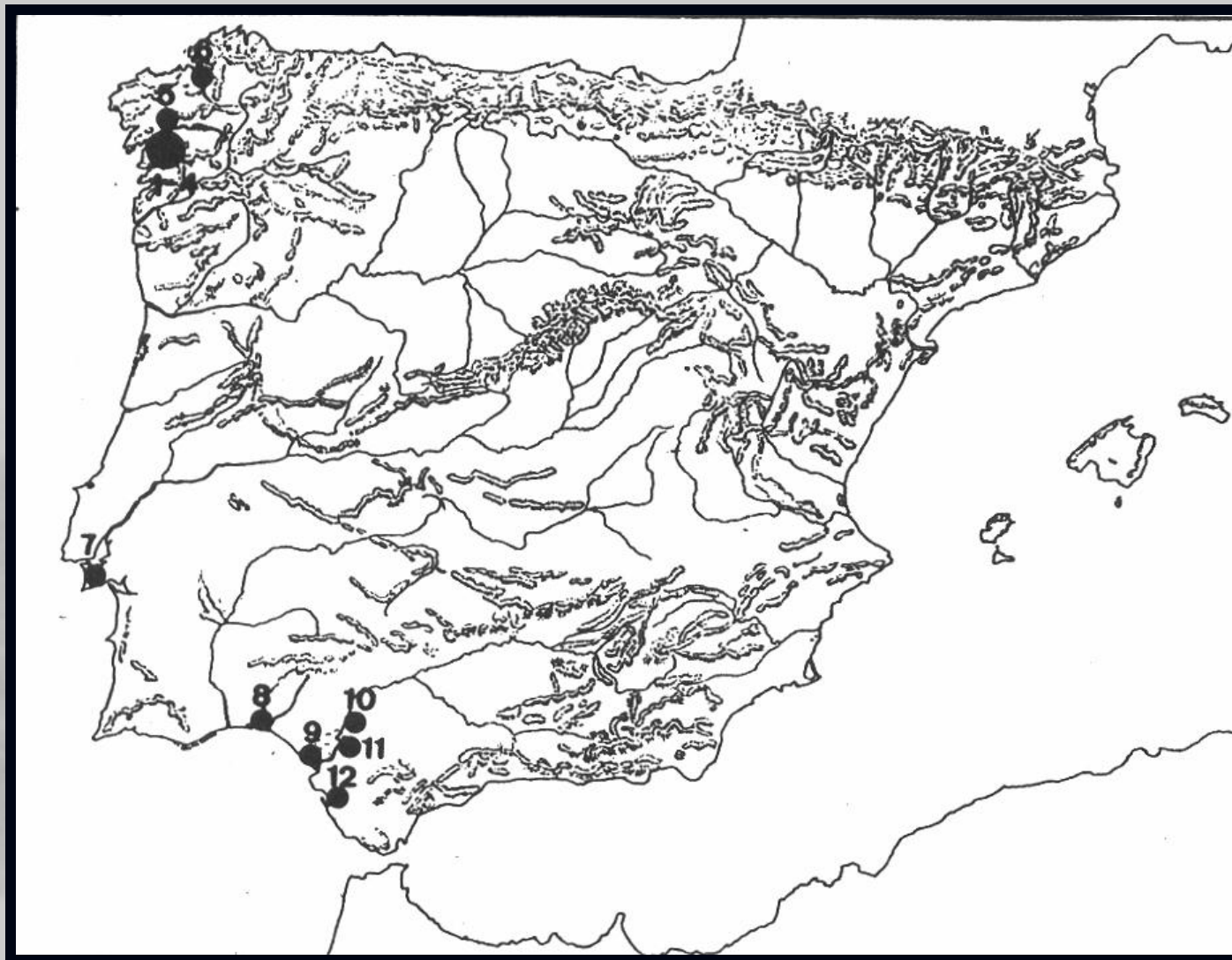
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■ Weapons deposited in river pass zones in Iberian Peninsula
(Rúiz Gálvez)



■ swords deposited in the mouths of rivers in the Iberian Peninsula
(Ruíz Gálvez)

- *«quod dominus comes de Nassauwia in suo dominio illud jus habeat, quod flumen Remi ad ipsum pertineat in tantum quantum uno super uno spadone equitare ad ipsum Renum et cum una lancea ulterius a se attingere potest »*
- *«quantum unus super magno equo sive dextratrio equitare ad flumen ipsum Reni et cum una lancea a se extendere poterit »*

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- *«si autem curtis adhuc cinctus non fuerit, ille quei deferndere voluerit, jactet securem saiga valentem contra meridiem orientem atque occidentem; a septentrione vero ut umbra pertingit amplius non ponat sepem et si illam terram non potuerit donare, donet aliam in proximo, quantum jactus est de securi saiga valente»*
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- *«All Bustalizia should be long at least as much as a man can throw an ax twelve times to the four parts of the field, and this man that throw the ax should be at the center of the field*

... and throw this ax the most far than he will could, as was mentioned before»

- *«Then the others were asked in order, and when the majority of those present declared themselves of the same opinion, war was agreed upon. It was customary for the Fetial to carry to the enemies' frontiers a blood-smeared spear tipped with iron or burnt at the end, and, in the presence of at least three adults, to say, :*

Inasmuch as the peoples of the Prisci Latini have been guilty of wrong against the People of Rome and the Quirites, and inasmuch as the People of Rome and the Quirites have ordered that there be war with the Prisci Latini, and the Senate of the People of Rome and the Quirites have determined and decreed that there shall be war with the Prisci Latini, therefore I and the People of Rome, declare and make war upon the peoples of the Prisci Latini.” With these words he hurled his spear into their territory»

(Liv. I.32.12-14)

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Regina column in a Pompei denarius

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(Historia Longobardorum et Vandalorum)

■ *«I am the sea breeze
I am the destructive wave
I am the noise of the sea
I am a powerful ox
I am the Hawk in canteen
I am a drop under the sun
I am a white lake
I am a brave boar
I am a Salmon in the lake
I am a lake in the plain
I am the force of art
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(Lebhar Gabala Erenn)

- *1) - Conquest, opening of hostilities*

- *2) - Definition of a border*

- *3) - Form of measure*

- (from center to the limit of a space)

- *4)- Possession Taking of a space*

- (Defined by its borders)*

- *«So when Castilla's King, which the Biscayans confess were vassals, visit the province, must go to town of Guernica on foot, the left foot barefoot, dressed with a simple rustic doublet and cloak, holding in his right hand a light javelin , and approaching the old oak in the valley , who up its robust branches near the town, run towards the tree in the presence of Biscayans that accompany him and throw the spear against the trunk and then extract it by his hand. This done, the king swears to observe the ancient institutions of the people, not going at all against their liberties and keep them free from all taxes [...].»*

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(Alfonso de Palencia, Decada II)



- undoubtful arthurian evocations

“folk say that, whenas men sat by the fires in the evening, a certain man came into the hall unknown of aspect to all men; and suchlike array he had, that over him was a spotted cloak, and he was bare-foot, and had linen-breeches knit tight even unto the bone, and he had a sword in his hand as he went up to the “Child Trunk” ... So he drew his sword and smote it into the tree-trunk so that it sank in up to the hilts; and all held back from greeting the man. Then he took up the word, and said— “Whoso draweth this sword from this stock, shall have the same as a gift from me, and shall find in good sooth that never bare he better sword in hand than is this. [....]

Now men stand up, and none would fain be the last to lay hand to the sword, for they deemed that he would have the best of it who might first touch it; so all the noblest went thereto first, and then the others, one after other; but none who came thereto might avail to pull it out, for in nowise would it come away howsoever they tugged at it; but now up comes Sigmund, King Volsung’s son, and sets hand to the sword, and pulls it from the stock easy, even as if it lay loose before him; so good that weapon seemed to all, that none thought he had seen such a sword before

(Volsungasaga)

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■ London Stone, Cannon Street



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- Blade marks in irish crosses, Market Cross, Kells, Co. Meath; Lorrha. Co. Tipperaby
(Newman, 2011)



- Blade marks in irish crosses, Market Cross, Meath;
St Patrick 's Church, Kells Co. Meath
(Newman, 2011)



- Pillar of de Killnasagarth Co. Armagh, Nash Manor, Glamorgan (Newman, 2011)



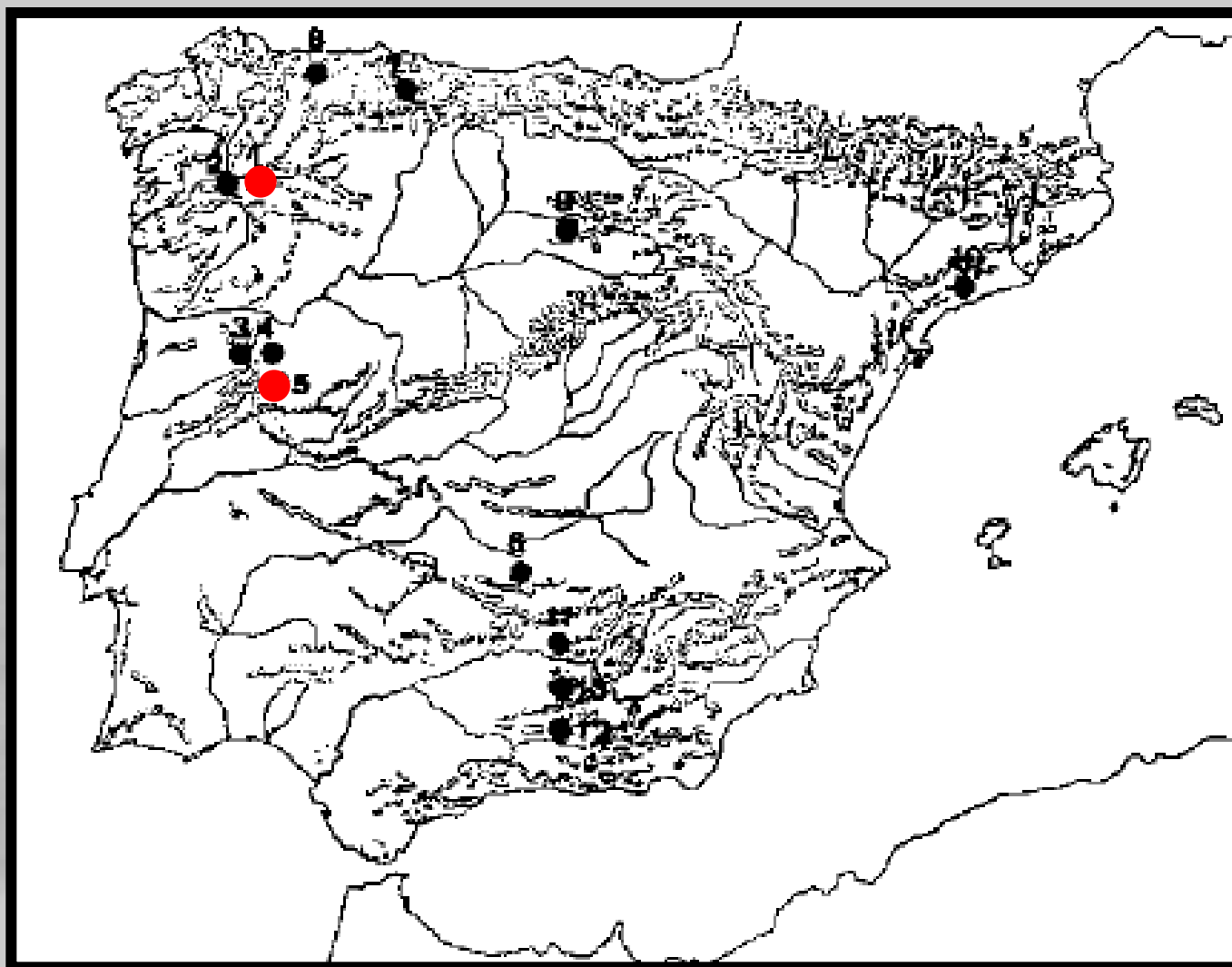
- Top: Blade marks in a stone from Wroxeter, Shropshire, near the mark the name CVNORIX. Right: Blade marks in Mullaghmast pillard (Newman, 2011)



■ Bullaun stone bearing blade marks at Derrymore , Co. Clare (Newman, 2011)



■ royal inauguration of a swedish king over the Mora Stone, Olaus Magnus



- swords deposited in dry land locations in the Iberian Peninsula
(Ruíz Gálvez)



- Sword of Mouruás, San Xoám de Rio: rock of Pena dos Castros where the sword was discovered in a fence

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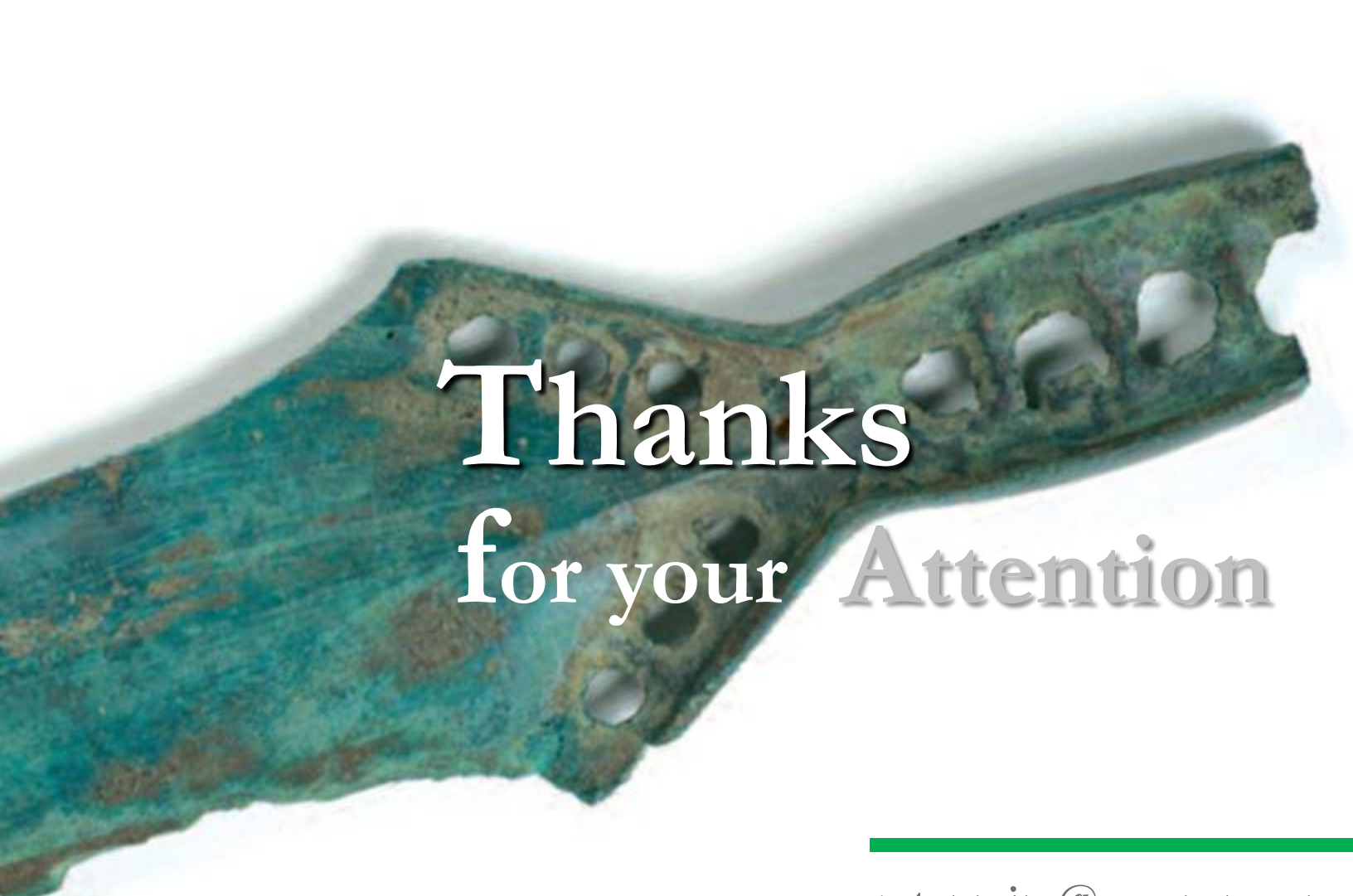
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■ 3)- Law/War Ritual Explanation:

- 3.1)- Rituals of conquest / war declaration
- 3.2)- Rituals of protection of borders & Territory
- 3.3)- Rituals of boundary marking & possession taking
- 3.4)- Ritual of Possession taking & access to power



Thanks
for your Attention

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